**Philosophy Of Star Trek**

**By Brian Roman**

Religion

**Humanism**. The human race, taken collectively, is the primary source of moral authority. Individual humans and other races are authorized to make moral judgments to a lesser extent. Humans are basically good. The moral problems of individual humans are the result of poor upbringing, tragic circumstances, or ignorance. Moral perfection increases with time, education, and technology. Alien races are judged by how closely they meet human moral standards. Major moral principles:

Karl Marx

1. **Technological Determinism**: the philosophy that technology will eventually solve every problem facing human society, including undesirable behaviour such as hate, crime, etc
2. in Star TrekTechnology can solve all of the problems of mankind, including the problems that stem from human nature such as war, hatred, greed, etc.
3. Technology should not be questioned. Eventually, it will solve all of its own side effects.

**Socialism**. All people should work according to their abilities and receive resources according to their needs. Individual achievement is recognized socially but not rewarded materially. Individual freedom is not important. Economy should be centrally planned by the government, since they know best who needs what. Commerce and competition are necessary evils. The profit motive is evil. Social problems are caused by scarcity and/or unjust distribution of material goods, but modern technology renders competition for resources obsolete. Federation citizens have access to all the material things they need thanks to the Federation government, so they are free to be truly happy and to maximize their human potential.

**Data** is an android, a mechanical representation of a human with a highly advanced cybernetic brain. You can turn him off and on, you can disassemble him and put him back together, and he will not die. He was not programmed to have emotions, he doesn't feel pain, and he has trouble understanding human relationships.   
  
Yet he does one thing that humans do, and computers don't; he learns.   
  
Through his interactions with humans, he begins to make friendships, he comes to understand human empathy and morality, he starts making decisions based on ethics and not cold logic, he even has a pet cat who, to any observer, it would appear he loves. He begins to have desires; he desires to be more human, he desires more experiences. In one episode, he even desires a family, and builds himself a daughter.  
  
My question to you is this; is Data a living being? Is he a person? Or is he a machine?

**Determinism**. On the whole, biology dictates behavior. Humans are the race most capable of free thought and action, and have the most cultural diversity. Other races are stereotypical. All members of a given alien race share the same culture, beliefs, and personality traits. For example, all Ferengi are shifty and greedy, and